CATCH COMPOSITION LOG

The Catch Composition Log is designed to categorize the catch on vessels that are catching extremely large quantities of fish, in the 10's or 100's of thousands of pounds, on a single haul. Due to the size of catches it is necessary to obtain subsamples from each haul in order to properly quantify the amount of fish caught. However, the method in which subsamples are collected is different from standard trips such as bottom otter trawl, gillnet and scallop dredge trips.

There are primarily two scenarios that are employed on midwater vessels for getting the fish onboard the vessels. One is to pump the fish onboard and the other is to haul the fish onboard into holding pens. The fish are then directed into fish holds and stored in running seawater tanks for transport back to port.

On vessels that are pumping fish onboard, subsamples must be collected prior to the fish entering the fish hold and should not have passed through any sorting device. Subsamples should be spaced out evenly throughout the pumping process to account for any stratification that may occur while the net is alongside the vessel. Observers must obtain samples from each of the chutes that lead to the fish holds on those vessels with multiple chutes.

When the catch is hauled onboard the vessel into sorting pens subsamples should also be spread out over the course of the hauling process. If the codend is sectioned off with the catch being brought onboard in smaller portions the observer should make sure to collect samples each time fish are brought onboard.

Catch compositions (species name, weight and disposition) should be recorded for each basket along with the time at which each basket sample was collected. Weights for each species should be totaled for the ten baskets and extrapolated using the captain's catch estimation of the kept catch for the entire haul.

In between filling the basket subsamples, the observer should continue to observe the fish along the chutes and record any species other than the target species. If large individual fish are being hand picked from the catch *(i.e.,* dogfish, groundfish, lobster, etc.), those fish should be set aside for the observer to weigh and sample. The hand picked fish weights would be recorded on the Haul Log as a weight produced from a tally count or an actual weight. The species in the subsample baskets would be extrapolated to the entire catch for that haul, and recorded on the Haul Log. The species in the basket subsamples should represent what is being pumped into the fish hold.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields A, B, C and E, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the manual.

1. BASKET NUMBER: Record the number assigned to a particular basket (i.e. subsample) of fish that is collected during the process of hauling fish onboard the vessel.

NOTE: A minimum of 10 basket samples should be collected.

NOTE: Basket samples should be evenly spaced out over the course of pumping the ENTIRE catch onboard the vessel.

2. TIME: Record the local time, using the 24 hour clock (0000-2359), at which each subsample is taken.

NOTE: Subsamples should be EVENLY spaced out throughout the pumping process to account for any stratification that may occur in the fishing net.

3. SPECIES NAME: Record the **complete** common name of the animals in the subsample baskets, as listed in Appendix A. Species Names. This name must agree with the species name recorded on the corresponding Haul Log.

4. SPECIES CODE: Leave this field blank.

5. POUNDS: Record, to the nearest tenth of a pound, the **round actual** weight of each animal listed in SPECIES NAMES (#4).

6. BASKET SUBTOTAL WEIGHT (b): Record, to the nearest tenth of a pound, the total individual basket weight by summing all species weights from this basket sample.

7. TOTAL WEIGHT OF PUMPED CATCH (d):

Record, in whole pounds, the Captain's estimate of the total catch pumped onboard.

CATCH SUMMARY BY SPECIES

8. SPECIES NAME: Summarize and record the complete common name of **all** species in all of the basket samples, as listed in Appendix A. Species Names. All species in the subsample must be accounted for.

9. SPECIES WEIGHT (POUNDS) (a) : Record, to the nearest tenth of a pound, the combined basket weight of each species listed in SPECIES NAMES (#3).

10. TOTAL BASKET WEIGHT (COMBINED) (b): Record, to the nearest tenth of a pound, the total weight of all basket samples added together (a) (#9).

11. CATCH COMPOSITION AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL BASKET WEIGHT (c): Record the proportion of the catch composition of the basket sample by dividing the summed species weight (a) (#9) by the total basket weight (b)(#10) for each individual species. The summed proportions should equal 1.

Example: 0.0004

12. EXTRAPOLATED WEIGHT: Record in whole pounds the total estimated weight of each species by multiplying the proportion of total weight (c) (#11) by the total weight of pumped catch (d) (#7).

NOTE: This weight should be recorded on the Haul Log as a kept estimated weight.

COMMENTS

Record information regarding this sample or your sampling methods below. If room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name or basket number.

NOTE: If a complete sample cannot be obtained, record the reason(s) in this section.